

# Bovine Tuberculosis



## Eradication Project

### What wildlife TB risk reduction steps are available?

#### Wildlife risk evaluation

- Be aware of wildlife activity around the farm
- Know which areas of your farm are most vulnerable to wildlife TB risks, and which areas are most secure
- Consider what methods to decrease wildlife risk will work best for you

**MDA and USDA staff can assist you with a wildlife risk evaluation of your farm.**

### Prevent wildlife intrusions into livestock areas

**Fencing** - While most fences are designed to contain livestock, some designs can also keep deer out.

#### Review current fence status -

What areas are fenced?

What kind of fence is used?

Is there a perimeter fence?

Does it limit wildlife entry?

#### Consider options for modifying or adding fences:

- Would increasing height of perimeter fencing be a good option?
- Are certain areas more in need of improved fences?
- Would a different fence type (woven wire, high-tensile, etc.) be a better option?
- Would additional strands or electrifying existing fences help?

**USDA Wildlife Services has a fence program and may be able to provide fencing to exclude deer from feed storage/feeding sites.**



**Fence It In!**

**Guard dogs-** Livestock guard dogs can reduce wildlife entry into cattle areas. Farm dogs can provide a degree of protection against wildlife TB risks.

**Other measures-** Consider fencing or removing apple/fruit trees, as they are a strong attraction for deer.

– Modify or eliminate deer cover in livestock areas.

### Remove wildlife that may transmit TB

- Disease control permits can be used to decrease the deer population.
- Allow access to deer hunters.
- Hunting and trapping of small mammals, particularly raccoons and opossums, reduces risk.
- Farm dogs and cats often help keep small mammal numbers down.
- Remove pigeons and/or restrict pigeon access to animal feed and housing by closing building openings with netting or fencing.

**Protect your investment. Leave a farming legacy. Decrease the risk of TB transmission from wildlife.**

Only you can prevent bovine TB. Store your feed responsibly and minimize wildlife access to feed and water.

### Contact Information

#### Who do beef and dairy cattle farmers call for help?

- Technical assistance (wildlife)
- Fencing

#### USDA Wildlife Services

Gaylord Office - (989) 705-8467

Lansing Office - (517) 336-1928

- Wildlife risk surveys

#### MI Dept. of Agriculture

Atlanta Office - (888) 565-8626

Lansing Office - (517) 373-1077

- Disease Control Permits

#### MI Dept. of Natural Resources

Gaylord Office - (989) 732-3541

- General Information

#### MSU Extension Office in your area

Mio (Dairy) - (989) 826-1160

Harrisville (Beef) - (989) 724-6478

**[www.michigan.gov/bovinetb](http://www.michigan.gov/bovinetb)**